

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 9/6/07.
2. Claims 13, 5-11 and 13-22 are pending in this application; and, claims 1 and 9 are independent claims. Claims 4 and 12 have been cancelled; and claim 1 and 9 have been amended. This action is made Final.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Silverbrook et al. ("Silverbrook").

As per claim 1, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a communication device for communication through a network; a calculation unit; and a printer (Abstract; figs. 1-2; col. 3, lines 1-8; *user interacts with a card to include a message using a sensing device and pen adapted to transmit interaction data to a computer system for printing and mailing to a recipient address*), said communication device accepting from said sender a mail-sending request with said input form written in by using said digital pen, said mail-sending request including at least a mail

message and pen stroke information that indicates the address of a recipient who receives said mail, said calculation unit determining the destination of said mail-sending request on the basis of said pen stroke information that indicates said address included in said mail-sending request, said printer printing said mail including character strings that indicate said mail message and said determined destination (fig. 1; "NAME" and "ADDR"; fig. 2; printer 601, pen 1; fig. 21; user ID 60, user account 820, payment 821, handwriting model 822, biometric 817-819 and pen 801; fig. 23; diagram reflecting pen-related information; fig. 33; explanation of how input is captured as digital ink; fig. 36; schematic view of text field class; fig. 42; history list; fig. 45; pen, printer page server and ID server interaction; fig. 49; UI page layout icons; fig. 50; depicts cards object model, which revolves around a supplier, customer and customized cards; fig. 55; flow diagram for addressing a card; fig. 59; personal message field; fig. 60; recipient address field; col. 6, lines 52-67). Furthermore, Silverbrook teaches a storage unit storing therein personal user information wherein the personal user information includes destination address information of said recipient of said mail and wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is an digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address (figs. 1-2, 21-23, 33, 36, 42, 45, 48-50, 55, 59-60; col. 6, lines 52-67; col. 46, lines 7-12; depicted are elements required in order to gather recipient destination address information from card filled out by sender wherein when

user's mail-sending request includes input with the address card, the address card is a digital pen input form type associated with personal user information such as electronic mail address of a netpage user/recipient).

As per claim 2, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes at least a user name and associated pen ID of said sender who sends said mail, said calculation unit identifying said sender of said mail on the basis of said pen ID sent from said digital pen, said printer printing said identified user name of said sender on said mail (fig. 21; *user account 820, payment card 821; fig. 22; balance 814; fig. 23; current selection/capture time/page ID; fig. 45; transaction ID 933; fig. 50; fee 509; moreover, sender's personal information such as name, ID 60 and pen ID are stored for identification and billing purposes prior to printing and delivery of the handwritten mail message via the pen to a street address of the recipient).*

As per claim 3, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, wherein said personal user information includes signature information previously registered, said mail-sending request includes a signature of said sender, said calculation unit performs authentication of

said signature included in said mail-sending request by using said signature information included in said personal user information, and if said signature is authenticated, accepts said mail-sending request so that said printer prints said mail (fig. 21; col. 38, lines 19-34; *biometric signature 818*).

As per claim 5, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein character recognition knowledge for character recognition based on said written pen stroke information, said calculation unit processing said written address information of character strings to recognize said characters on the basis of said character recognition knowledge and to thereby determine said address (col. 6, lines 43-67).

As per claim 6, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, wherein said calculation unit collects the strokes of characters failed to be recognized in said character recognition processing, assigns correct character codes to said character strokes and thus makes use of those failures for additional learning about the function of said character recognition, thereby improving the accuracy of character recognition (col. 18, lines 6-16 and 50-53; col. 21, lines 5-13 and 30-40).

As per claim 7, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit for storing therein personal user information that includes user names, addresses and pen ID information of said sender and said recipient who send and receive said mail, respectively, said printer providing, by printing, a reply block in which reply information can be written by use of said digital pen while printing said mail to be sent from said sender to said recipient, said communication device receiving a reply message that said recipient has filled in said reply block of said sent mail by use of said digital pen, said printer printing said reply mail including said reply message (figs. 1-2, 21-23, 33, 36, 42, 45, 48-50, 55, 59-60; *depicts user information including name, address, pen ID, printer for printing wherein reply information can be written and wherein the communication device can receive a reply from another netPage user*; col. 6, lines 52-67; *wherein a delivery confirmation and reply information written by other NetPage users for are provided within a mail correspondence environment*).

As per claim 8, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes user ID information and service usage history information of said sender of said mail or said recipient of said

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mail, said service usage history information including using point information that is issued on the basis of the use of service by said sender or said recipient, said calculation unit computing a total bill for the mail service using said mail system according to said stored using point information (figs. 23-24, 42 and 50; col. 29, lines 1-29; sections 4.3, 4.4 and 8.3.3; *i.e. balance/bill based on number of transactions/point information*).

Claim 9 is similar in scope to claim 1 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 10 is similar in scope to claim 2 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 11 is similar in scope to claim 3 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 13 is similar in scope to claim 5 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 14 is similar in scope to claim 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 15 is similar in scope to claim 7 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 16 is similar in scope to claim 8 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 9/3/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the following:

Silverbrook does not show or suggest personal user information including destination address information of said recipient of said mail wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is an digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address.

The Office disagrees for the following reasons:

Silverbrook does teach personal user information including destination address information of said recipient of said mail wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is an digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address, i.e. user's mail-sending request includes input with the address card, the address card is a digital pen input form type associated with personal user information such as electronic mail address of a netpage user/recipient (figs. 1-2, 21-23, 33, 36, 42, 45, 48-50, 55, 59-60; col. 6, lines 52-67; col. 46, lines 7-12).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Inquires

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063.

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lvn

/Steven P Sax/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174

Patent Examiner
November 18, 2007